

HOUSE RESOLUTION 257

By Davidson

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Douglas Ardell Hester of Springfield.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable Tennesseans who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Douglas Ardell Hester is one such estimable person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, his dedicated community service has distinguished Mr. Hester as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to his community and this State; and

WHEREAS, born June 26, 1928, in Big Rock to the late Henry Hester and Cora Shelby Hester, Ardell Hester is the second of nine children and attended school in a one-room schoolhouse called Big Meadow; in 1941, his family moved to the Cedar Hill area of Robertson County after the government bought their land, which is now part of Fort Campbell; and

WHEREAS, after moving, Mr. Hester attended Cedar Hill Elementary School for a short time before focusing his energies on helping to provide for his family by farming and cutting dogwood trees; and

WHEREAS, this was only the beginning of Mr. Hester's long tenure of lending support to others and helping to solve problems; throughout his life, he has served others selflessly; and

WHEREAS, on November 19, 1948, he joined Mamie Gainous in holy matrimony; after working in sharecropping, he began to work for John Matthews, then Superintendent of the Robertson County Highway Department, in 1951 as a farmer; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hester earned a reputation for diligence and dedication, and Mr. Matthews hired him in March 1954 to work for the highway department as a truck driver and grader operator; and

WHEREAS, over the past fifty years, Mr. Hester has served with acumen and alacrity operating many types of heavy equipment and earning the money to provide for his family and help his children pursue their education; at age seventy-five, he still enjoys his job thoroughly and hopes to continue his work for years to come; and

WHEREAS, a devoted family man, he is the loving father of four children, Lanny Hester, Sue Binkley, Janie Perry, and Jackie Hester and the proud grandfather of eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, a devout Christian, Mr. Hester has attended church faithfully for fifty-five years and is an inspiration to many at North Springfield Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, his remarkable life and success as a community leader are directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hester is an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people whom life has treated unkindly, and he epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant, and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, Douglas Ardell Hester is wholly committed to the noble precepts that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State", and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby commend and honor Douglas Ardell Hester for his many contributions to his community and this State, salute his unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction, and extend to him our wishes for much continued happiness and success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.